

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes, and deletes claims in this Application. A detailed listing of claims that are, or were, in the Application, irrespective of whether claims remain under examination in the Application is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Status of the Claims

Claims 30 and 68-76 are being cancelled.

Claims 31-36 are currently amended.

Claims 77-81 are being added.

Claims 31-39, and 77-81 are now pending in this Application.

Claim Objections

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 36-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. With this Amendment, claim 36 has been amended to be in independent form and includes all the limitations of the claims from which it formerly depended. Claims 37 - 39 depend from claim 36. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 36-39 and presents claims 36-39 for favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 68-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. With this amendment, claims 68-74 have been cancelled. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 68-74 as moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 68-70 were rejected as invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). With this amendment, claims 68-70 have been cancelled. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 68-70 as moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 30-35, and 71-76 were rejected as invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). With this amendment, claims 30 and 71-76 have been cancelled. Also, with this amendment, claims 31-35 have been amended to depend from claim 36, which, for the reasons stated above, is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30 and 71-76 as moot. Applicant respectfully presents claims 31-35 for favorably reconsideration and allowance.

New Claims

With this Amendment, independent claim 77 and corresponding dependent claims 78-81 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of new claims 77-81 is not

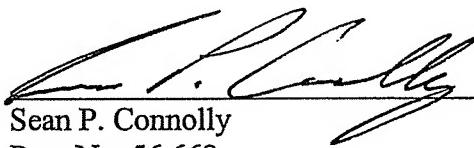
taught or suggested by any of the art of record, nor any proper combination thereof. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and allowance of the new claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits the claims are in condition for formal allowance which is courteously solicited. If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 11-0160.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 28, 2007



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